

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 4, 7 - 26, 29 - 43 are pending. Claims 5-6 and 27-28 have been previously cancelled without prejudice. All the pending claims have been amended to recite language consistent with the specification originally filed.

The claim amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification. Thus, no new matter has been introduced.

**Interview Summary**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the interview with the Examiner on June 5, 2007 – during which issues relating to the rejections of record under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, and language sufficient to favorably resolve the same to secure allowance of the subject application were discussed.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action that once the rejections of the claims under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, are favorably resolved, the rejected claims will be allowed. See Office Action at page 5.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claims 1 – 4, 7 – 26, and 29 – 43 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons noted in the Office Action.

In response, Applicants have amended the claims so as to satisfy the requirements of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. For example, claim 1 has been amended in the manner recited in the **Listing of the Claims** section of this paper. To provide a non-limiting illustrative example, claim 1 (as amended) is reproduced below together with reference numerals from Applicants' non-limiting drawing figures for ease of comprehension – with the understanding that the below noted claim with reference numerals is only a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus including:

- a first component (2) defining a first passage (7);
- a second component (3) connectable with the first component (2) and defining a second passage (10), said passages ((7) and (10)) being aligned when the components ((2) and (3)) are connected to each other;
- a rotatable locking pin (12) having formations (22) and a retaining element (15) having engaging formations (20) complimentary to the formations (22) and each configured for being accommodated in the aligned passages ((7) and (10)) thereby to prevent separation of the components, the rotatable locking pin (12) being rotatable relative to the

components ((2) and (3)), when so-accommodated in the aligned passages ((7) and (10)),  
relative to the components, between

a locked position in which the engaging formations (20) of the locking pin  
engages at least one of the complimentary formations (22) components-so as to  
prevent withdrawal of the locking pin (12) from the aligned passages ((7) and (10)),  
and to prevent separation of the components ((2) and (3)), and

a free position in which the pin (12) is slidably removable from the aligned  
passages ((7) and (10)) to permit separation of the components,

~~wherein one of said components includes a retaining formation and said pin~~  
~~is configured for engagement with said retaining formation when the pin is in the~~  
~~locked position, said the complimentary formations (22) of the pin (12) including a~~  
~~pair of spaced walls are at least partly defining a disposed along a circumferentially~~  
~~circumference extending slot in of the pin (12), and~~

wherein the pin (12) being is configured such so that the retaining engaging  
formations (20) of the retaining element (15) formation-interlock with the  
complimentary formations (22) of the pin (12) enters said slot as said the pin (12) is  
rotated from said the free position to said the locked position to prevent separation of  
the first and second components ((2) and (3)).

A similar exercise can be undertaken with each of the amended claims to verify that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the claim amendments made, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record including the rejection of claims 1 – 4, 7 – 26, and 29 – 43 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

### **Conclusion**

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a written indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney so that any remaining issues (if any) may be promptly resolved to secure allowance of the subject application.

If any additional fees are due or an overpayment of fees made, please debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-3935, as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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